

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Lebanon/Syria/Israel

DATE DISTR. 23 Mar 1949

**SUBJECT** Israeli Activities in Lebanon and Syria

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

**NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)**

DATE OF IN  
25X1X6

**SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.**

1. During the first week in February 1949, Israeli authorities sent to Damascus a committee composed of Elishu Mizrahi, Shalom Levi, and Haim Yehuda. They stayed in Beirut five days as guests of Binso (fnn),\* Principal of the Alliance School.
2. In Damascus the committee members contacted Palestinian Arab refugees through Sheikh Rashid Rida Attar, head of the Muhammadiyah Society.\*\* They tried to persuade the refugees to return to Palestine, promising that the property of each refugee would be returned to him and that he would be compensated for losses if he acknowledged the authority of Israel.
3. Source states that a large number of refugees in Damascus have been persuaded to do so, and are impatiently awaiting their return to Palestine, and that the committee is now working in Lebanon.\*\*\*
4. Jack Franco,\*\*\*\* a Zionist who has been conducting espionage activities and spreading propaganda in Iraq, fled to Lebanon several months ago to avoid exposure and is there at present. Source states that he had used the name Ya'qub Binhas in Iraq.
5. Franco pretends to be blind, and is led about the streets by a small boy. Although he appears to be a miserable, poor old man, source states that he is actually very intelligent and clever, with perfectly good eyesight, and that he is a first-class politician and conversationalist.
6. Source states that Franco's aim is the creation of a Christian state in Lebanon, allied to Israel by a treaty of friendship and non-aggression, and that he has large funds at his disposal and would not hesitate to buy off any leader whom he thought he could use. "International quarters support him and sympathize with him," according to source.
7. Another source states that Franco is an Israeli agent who has recently returned to Lebanon, and that he is pretending to be blind. He also asserts that Franco is not the same person as Ya'qub Binhas. Source believes that Franco is now under the surveillance of the Lebanese Surete.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLASSIFICATION									
STATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NAVY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION				
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AIR		FBI					

This document is hereby awarded to COLLEEN HARRIS, 10000 13th Avenue, NE, the holder of 15 copies of 100-107101 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2009

Document No. 009  
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐  
☒ DECLASSIFIED  
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S

DECLASSIFIED 4 APR 77

Date: MAY 10 1978 BY: 013

~~SECRET~~  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1A2g  
[REDACTED]

-2-

25X1A6a

- \* [REDACTED] Comment. Binso was reported in 1946 to be a Lebanese Jew, active in the Zionist cause, and head of the Israelite School in Beirut. [REDACTED] 25X1X6  
25X1A6a
- \*\* [REDACTED] Comment. A society formed in Damascus which was reported in April 1948 to be spreading propaganda openly against King 'Abdullah of Transjordan and against the British-Transjordanian treaty. In 1946 the Society was reported to be devoting its propaganda to attacks against the British. [REDACTED] 25X1X6  
25X1A6a
- \*\*\* [REDACTED] It is possible that the Israelis are anxious to get some of the Arabs from the Nazareth area to return there, pledged to loyalty to Israel, in order to bolster the Israeli claim to this disputed area.  
25X1A6a
- \*\*\*\* [REDACTED] Subject may be identical with Jean Franco, reported by two sources to be a representative of French Zionists in Beirut. [REDACTED] 25X1X6

~~SECRET~~  
CONFIDENTIAL